

# Local Government Consultation Meeting Reports

Meeting location	Date
Auckland	21 May 2002
Christchurch	30 May 2002
Dunedin	28 May 2002
Greymouth	31 May 2002
Hamilton	22 May 2002
Invercargill	27 May 2002
Napier	23 May 2002
Nelson	29 May 2002
Palmerston North	22 May 2002
Stratford	21 May 2002
Tauranga	23 May 2002
Wellington	28 May 2002
Whangarei	20 May 2002

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Auckland</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	21 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Karen Bell
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Martin Harvey, Deputy Director, Policy Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst Diana Moir, Media Advisor Elisabeth Numan-Parsons, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<p><b>Renewables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about link to renewables policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Sinks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive of the proposed approach to sinks</li> </ul> <p><b>Partnership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed the proposed partnership with central government and a New Zealand version of Cities for Climate Protection</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want leadership and commitment from Central Government on the climate change issue</li> <li>• There was discussion on the difference between the Climate Change Project and Energywise Councils</li> <li>• Central government assistance with funding and systems support is needed</li> </ul>	

<b><u>Partnership:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils need to be involved in formulating how a partnership will work</li> </ul>	
<b><u>RMA:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed amendment of the RMA was supported by the Auckland Regional Council</li> <li>• To prevent the government sending out mixed messages, there was talk of setting out guidelines</li> <li>• Councils want certainty and mandate from central government</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	7

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Christchurch</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	29 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette Wharfe
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Alistair Dixon, Senior Policy Analyst Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst Diana Moir, Media Advisor Maria Murdoch, Policy Analyst Elisabeth Numan-Parsons, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b><u>General:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban planning and design</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role that local government will play in educating the public regarding climate change</li> <li>• The role of environment court judges in educating the public and in intergenerational education</li> <li>• Fellow councils also need to be educated</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Impacts and adaptation:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to 'force' action from Local Governments through legislation</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Funding of initiatives:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about the funding of future roles for local government</li> <li>• Lack of detail in the policy package and unclear assumptions in regards to funding</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b><u>General:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough time for discussion groups</li> <li>• General support for the policy approach</li> <li>• Concern about the social impacts of the emissions charge</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Agriculture and sinks:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about sinks, participants want more incentives for indigenous forests</li> </ul>	

<b><u>Ratification:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was strong support for ratification and clear direct questions and answers on the issue for the public</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Transport:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More needs to be done to reduce transport emissions</li> </ul>	
<b>Any other general group comments on the package</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most feel that the policies do not go far enough or the policies will not be implemented early enough</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	6

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Dunedin</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	28 May 02
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette Wharfe
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Alistair Dixon, Senior Policy Analyst Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst Diana Moir, Media Advisor Maria Murdoch, Policy Analyst Elisabeth Numan Parsons, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b><u>General:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for more detail on policy items before complete discussion and comment from stakeholders can be gained</li> <li>• More detail is needed on the social impacts of the policies and their effect on social equity</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for greater public awareness and involvement</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Revenue recycling:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be transparency as to where the revenue generated from the preferred policy package will go</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Regional concerns:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern that EECA could be doing more in this region</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Impacts and adaptation:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation is often raised as an issue by submitters on regional plans, but local authorities still permit development in at-risk coastal areas. It is unclear whether this is a local authority or a regional council issue</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b><u>RMA:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern at the potential loss of community involvement as a result of the amendment of the Resource Management Act</li> <li>• The 'tampering' with a holistic legislative framework is not fully supported.</li> <li>• Not much support for guidelines on RMA – often too late</li> </ul>	

<p><b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public education and involvement is essential in the issue of climate change. There also needs to be collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment, insurers, non-governmental organisations and Local Government New Zealand</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Partnership:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Territorial local authorities would be more interested in a partnership programme than regional councils because of different roles that they have.</li> <li>Need to ensure that the Climate Change Project is seen as part of a 'sustainable cities' concept</li> </ul> <p><b><u>NGAs and CAR:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern at how negotiations of Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements may happen. Government needs to take a 'reasonable' approach because the effects of a lack of good faith in negotiation will flow through internationally</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Any other general group comments on the package</b></p> <p><b><u>General:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The policy package needs more detail, particularly on its social impacts</li> <li>The preferred policy package is generally supported, but some people felt that implementation was too slow and would not have a strong enough effect on the reduction of greenhouse gases</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b></p>	<p>6</p>

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Greymouth</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	31 May 02
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Karen Bell
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Robin Brasell, Senior Policy Analyst Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst Doug Simpson, Policy Analyst
<p><b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b></p> <p><b><u>General:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns about the consultation process</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Ratification:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants wanted to discuss in detail the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Climate change as a phenomenon:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were concerns about the uncertainty of scientific measurements of climate change</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Emissions charge:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is unclear whether there will be GST on the emissions charge</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Agriculture and forestry:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were questions raised on how carbon sinks would work</li> </ul>	

<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b>NGAs and CAR:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants would like a clearer definition of who is competitiveness-at-risk</li> </ul>	
<b>Projects:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples wanted as to what a project might be (Renewables, energy efficiency)</li> </ul>	
<b>Funding of initiatives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns about the additional costs that the preferred policy package might put on local government. Will the Cities for Climate Protection programme cost councils much?</li> </ul>	
<b>RMA:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reduction of duplication in legislation is good</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	6.5

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	10 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Major Resource Users of Environment Waikato</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette Wharfe
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst Elisabeth Numan-Parsons, Policy Analyst Margie Wheeler, Communications and consultation manager
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b>Inventory</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were many questions over the role and contribution of methane in New Zealand's greenhouse gas inventory, including what percentage of greenhouse gases methane comprises, and the percentages of greenhouse gases that are contributed by livestock emissions versus emissions from rotting vegetation</li> <li>Questions over the role of grass as a carbon sink</li> </ul>	
<b>Transport</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion over the role and potential value in tackling the inefficiency of transport, the lack of government standards on vehicular emissions and the role local government could play in making their vehicle fleets more efficient</li> <li>Question as to why electricity generators that burn fossil fuels are not considered competitiveness-at-risk</li> <li>A request that government do more to 'sell the benefits' of a national response to climate change to show 'win-win' situations, including energy efficiency benefits and improvements in competitiveness</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion – Research</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research needs to be directed appropriately in the short, medium and long term</li> </ul>	

- Keep the research body separate from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology
- Research and development agencies are already set up, do not duplicate them
- Funding is a critical issue in the policy package. This was discussed at length. (Suggestions were a percentage allocation, levy per head, minimum price allocation, project based, percentage per stock head or recycling of funding from credits to agriculture research)
- The agricultural sector should determine the research process
- The research could be funded through
  - Dairy Insight, which could include a proportion for climate change
  - Existing levies
- Have to be able to tie together different research from different sub-sectors of the agriculture industry
- There is a need for a framework to judge the adequacy of any research programme (which should include criteria from the agriculture sector).
- The ownership of the research (the public or private individuals) is in question, likewise who will own the intellectual property
- New Zealand does not need another layer of bureaucracy to allocate funds

#### **Report back from specific discussion – Business**

##### **Emissions charge:**

- There was a query about whether the emissions charge would go ahead if the Kyoto Protocol was not ratified
- Would like details of the fall back plan in case the effects of ratifying the Kyoto Protocol penalise our industries

##### **International:**

- Government needs to provide data on who is monitoring what our trading competitors are doing.
- Would like to see a national model of how much the policies will cost and to understand how life cycle emission measurement (import/exports) will be done

##### **Revenue recycling:**

- Would like to know whether the revenue to be recycled will be retained in a dedicated account or a general account

##### **Business opportunities:**

- There should be encouragement of new business opportunities
  - Lowered corporate/ personal tax rates
  - Small to medium enterprises need strategy and planning support

#### **Report back from specific discussion – Forestry and Agriculture**

##### **Planting:**

- Have the effect that the policies have on the potential re-vegetation of bush been considered

##### **Sinks:**

- Did not understand whether the sink credits will go to individuals or not

- Research is required into forestry, it would be good if this were funded by carbon credits that are generated by the forestry sector

### **Local Government – Adapting to climate change**

#### **RMA:**

- The Resource Management Act is an adequate vehicle for local government to deal with climate change
- A national policy statement will reduce the uncertainty about functions, roles and duties for local and regional councils
- There need to be links between local and regional councils to cover 'gaps'
- Currently the Building Act is the only way that Local Government can impact on climate change
- A national policy statement would give more strength to local government climate change policy. Some people though we need more statutory weight than just guidelines
- Require climate change to be linked to the review of the Local Government Act
- There is a conflict between the removal of controls from regions with the responsibility to control urban form that regions and district councils share
- Some people were unsure that the Resource Management Act controls greenhouse gases

#### **Public awareness and education:**

- We need to consider non-regulatory measures such as environmental education

#### **Partnership program**

- Participants identified a need to address both rural and urban approaches
- Standards should be developed around key areas, for example Auckland
- General support for a New Zealand version of Cities for Climate Protection, but this would require dedicated co-ordination and resources, especially to drive the implementation of the program
- Would territorial local authorities be eligible for project funding for Cities for Climate Protection?
- South Waikato Council, Environment Waikato, Waikao-Otorohanga Council, and Hamilton City Council are all interested in developing an appropriate program for climate change
- It should be noted that there is only one real city in New Zealand, the majority of territorial local authorities are local and this will have an impact on how Cities for Climate Protection works
- Cities for Climate Protection is wider than the NEECs strategy as it includes wastes. A political commitment needed to really get it going
- Councils will only do projects that cost if told to do so by government

#### **How can central government assist?**

- Central government needs to provide information, especially information that appeals to businesses. The information needs to be widely and easily accessible

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Territorial local authorities need information about incentives (the details) as soon as possible in order to be able to act</li> <li>• Identified need for continued scientific research</li> <li>• Need well structured education program</li> <li>• Facilitate information transfer and provide clear understanding and knowledge</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Impacts and adaptation:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing for climate change is business as usual, councils have been doing it for over 10 years</li> </ul>
<b>Other issues</b>
<p><b><u>Meeting process</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants wanted more meetings and seminars and voiced support for full day versus half day meetings, with more time allowed for participation in discussion groups</li> </ul>

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	22 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Karen Bell
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Murray Ward, Principal Advisor Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst Elisabeth Numan-Parsons, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<p><b><u>Agriculture and forestry:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were lots of questions about forestry ownership and trading system and in particular whether the government should retain or devolve sink credits.</li> <li>• What the implications of climate change policies for local government will be, especially the changing land uses from forests to dairy. The effects on the economy and who pays for these changes</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Partnership:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liked concept of partnership programme but wanted to discuss details and who will pay for this</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change education is needed</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<p><b><u>RMA:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed views on whether and how the Resource Management Act should be amended. Some supported a National Policy Statement and others did not</li> <li>• Participants were keen on national guidance, such as standards. Any amendments to the Resource Management Act should be kept simple and certainty about mandate and functions is definitely needed</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The uncertainty about the coming changes to the Resource Management Act is costing money</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Forestry and agriculture:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were concerns about the measurement of sinks by councils</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Public awareness and education</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for public awareness and education</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	7

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Invercargill</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	27 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette Wharfe
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Murray Ward, Principal Advisor Maria Murdoch, Policy Analyst Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst Margie Wheeler, Communications and Consultation Manager
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<p><b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for education on climate change to be in the school curriculum, not just as a document</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Revenue recycling:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions as to whether revenue will be recycled regionally</li> <li>Transparency needed in revenue collecting and recycling, so that the emissions charge does not become 'just another tax'</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Regional issues:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question as to whether regions that lack 'clean power' be able to develop as quickly as other regions</li> </ul> <p><b><u>International:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like to know what schemes are in place for emissions trading overseas and what other countries position on ratification are</li> </ul>	

<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b>Regional issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For a region to develop quickly there needs to be a steady supply of electricity, councils need to be sure that this will be guaranteed</li> <li>• Would like to see taxes returned to the region that they came from instead of them being sent to address Auckland's problems</li> <li>• Sink credits should be allocated on a regional basis</li> </ul>	
<b>NGAs and CAR:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to see some criteria for assessing NGAs</li> </ul>	
<b>Impacts and adaptation:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will there be enough money to resource work on impacts/adaptation</li> </ul>	
<b>Partnership:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions about how the partnership programme will work</li> </ul>	
<b>Transport:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to address transport emissions because this policy is not going to reduce emissions</li> </ul>	
<b>RMA:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some discussion and muted approval of a National Policy Statement</li> </ul>	
<b>General:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for wider government policy decisions to consider climate change impacts. If government closes local branches of departments then people using these services will have to travel greater distances by car</li> </ul>	
<b>Any other general group comments on the package</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs more detail before group/individual positions can be in a position to comment</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	5.5

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Napier</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	24 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette Wharfe
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Lisa Sheppard, Senior Policy Analyst Robin Brasell, Senior Policy Analyst Charlie Russell, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b>General:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern as to who will bear the cost of the preferred policy package and whether the policies will impact more on lower socio-economic groups</li> </ul>	
<b>RMA:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether it should be amended</li> <li>• Cross linkages with other sustainable development issues such as urban design</li> </ul>	

<b><u>Adaptation:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more details and information on the time frame for adaptation. Regionally specific examples would be really good</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b><u>RMA:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RMA should be amended as is administratively inefficient</li> <li>• Need to also use non-regulatory methods to plan for urban design</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Partnership:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils acknowledged that engagement had already started</li> <li>• Money required to fund the partnership should be from recycled revenue (taken from regions effectively)</li> <li>• There should be more focus on adaptation</li> <li>• Education needs to be broader and on a one to one basis with industry</li> <li>• How do councils deal with scepticism?</li> <li>• Climate change should be integrated as part of environmental management, energy efficiency and recycling are important</li> </ul>	
<b>Any other general group comments on the package</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a cost benefit analysis of the policy package</li> <li>• Are there more than just international benefits?</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	6

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Nelson</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	29 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Karen Bell
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Lisa Sheppard, Senior Policy Analyst Doug Simpson, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b><u>Climate change as a phenomenon:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certainty of science on which climate change policy is based</li> </ul>	
<b><u>General:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether climate change will have a net is negative or positive benefit for New Zealand</li> <li>• The National Interest Analysis and the Climate Change Response Bill were of interest, especially in relation to the national inventory and whether this will be useful to local government in methodology)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>International:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of questions on how the international negotiations process works</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b><u>General:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on urban form is difficult and for little gain</li> <li>• Need more effort in NEECs and the transport sector. Participants to the</li> </ul>	

meeting were critical about things like freeing up the importing of Japanese cars and similar macro decisions

- Central government needs to lead by example

**NGAs and CAR:**

- Question about what sort of firms are likely to get NGAs or be in the competitiveness-at-risk category

**Public awareness and education:**

- Education is viewed as important and should use existing local government networks. It is important to fund public education properly

**RMA:**

- A longer-term focus could be added to the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act. (Central government needs to show leadership to allow a cultural shift to occur)
- Some elected members will not work on anything that does not have a legal mandate
- Support suggested amendment to the RMA, macro emissions are best dealt with by central government
- A national policy statement would be an efficient way of achieving the desired results and national standards could be useful

**Partnership:**

- Meeting attendees thought that Cities for Climate Protection is a good idea, but that there is assigned area for it at the moment. For it to work it would need to be adequately resourced. It would be great if central government could fund a co-ordinator in each council, 1/2 –1 million dollars would get a national network of local government co-ordinators across the country

<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	6.6
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<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Palmerston North</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	22 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Lisa Sheppard, Senior Policy Analyst Charlie Russell, Policy Analyst Robin Brasell, Senior Policy Analyst

**Issues raised and discussed during meeting**

**Impacts and adaptation:**

- A lot of queries about the role local government might play in inventory and measurement

**RMA:**

- Not convinced whether the Resource Management Act should be amended, would like a national policy statement considered
- Is the Resource Management Act the right act, what is the best mechanism to

<p>deal with climate change. Want consultation on the details of changes made to legislation that councils will have to work with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national policy statement has the potential to be used, would like to see this option explored</li> <li>• Would like more information on the relationship with Section 5 of the Act and whether it conflicts with this</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Report back from specific discussion</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central government has better access to media than local government</li> <li>• Public education should be incorporated into existing programmes</li> <li>• Define what you want (behavioural change) and then work out steps to achieve this</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Impacts and adaptation:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the key issues in regards to adaptation is what ratepayers are willing to pay to put strategies in place</li> <li>• Many local examples have been given of the need to plan for climate change linked events such as floods</li> <li>• Councils need to consider legal issues that may come up in the future, such as challenges to planning decisions</li> <li>• More links should be made between planning, walking and roading</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Revenue recycling:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of revenue recycling from an emissions charge needs to pay for adaptation</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Partnership:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central government needs to create a 'real' partnership, not one where one party tells the other what to do</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Any other general group comments on the package</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider uncertainties to be flexible</li> <li>• See that there is a sincere intention to be fair</li> <li>• Would like to see more detail as to how the policies will be applied</li> <li>• Do not put the 'frighteners' onto people, focus on the foundations</li> <li>• There should be a high priority on policies that will bring about the greatest change</li> <li>• Clearer links are needed to show the interrelationships between policies on waste, energy, transport and biodiversity</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b></p>	<p>7</p>

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Stratford</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	21/5/02
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette Wharfe
<b>Climate Change</b>	Lisa Sheppard, Senior Policy Analyst

<b>Project Staff Attending</b>	Charlie Russell, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b>General:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on transport and industry policy not agriculture and forestry policy</li> <li>• Concern about central governments expectations that local government will implement central government policy, climate change is not one of local government's core functions</li> </ul>	
<b>Agriculture and forestry:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not want any policy initiatives that would undermine the forestry and soil conservation regional initiatives</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b>RMA:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amend the Resource Management Act as soon as possible, it is currently a huge cost to the region</li> <li>• The Resource Management Act is weak regarding urban form issues</li> <li>• Participants at the meeting do not want national guidelines, they want clear and total removal of climate change from the Resource Management Act</li> <li>• The Climate Change Project need to understand benefits to their communities</li> </ul>	
<b>Public awareness and education:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education not a core function of local government</li> </ul>	
<b>Any other general group comments on the package</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that regional equity issues are kept in balance</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	6

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Tauranga</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	23 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	Combined local government and business and interest group meeting
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lynette Wharfe
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Lisa Sheppard, Senior Policy Analyst Charlie Russell, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b>RMA:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils have for some time, been looking for clarification of the role of the Resource Management Act</li> </ul>	
<b>General:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether local governments would have additional requirements asked of them, for example whether they will have to monitor firm-level emissions, for taxation purposes</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b>RMA:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was consensus support for a Resource Management Act amendment</li> </ul>	

<p>because this would reduce much uncertainty for both emitters and councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was some discussion on a national policy statement for urban planning and greenhouse gases (and energy efficiency, transport and subdivision developments)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Agriculture and Forestry:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using sink credits to target regional development where sinks are planted</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Revenue recycling:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using recycled revenue to target energy efficiency and waste treatment in regions (i.e. give some money to regional councils to implement projects)</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:</b>	N/A

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Wellington</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	28 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Karen Bell
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Murray Ward, Principal Advisor Lisa Sheppard, Senior Policy Analyst Douglas Simpson, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public education is important</li> </ul> <p><b><u>General:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change should be linked with urban planning, sustainable development, district plans, transport, energy efficiency and urban form</li> </ul>	
<b>Report back from specific discussion</b>	
<b><u>Public awareness and education:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unless councillors in local government understand climate change issues, local government will not implement successful climate change policy</li> <li>• Want short presentations to elected members to educate them on climate change</li> <li>• Need to capture the unconverted in local government (their hearts and minds)</li> <li>• Staff also need further education on the detail of impacts and adaptation</li> <li>• Getting the parameters right for risk management is important and councils will need help to do this</li> </ul> <p><b><u>RMA:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some people at the meeting were not keen on an amendment to the Resource Management Act or any weakening of the Act</li> <li>• The RMA needs consistency and some were keen on a national focus</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Agriculture and forestry:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were many questions on sinks and part of the interest was because local government has a lot of vegetation and trees. Meeting participants wondered whether they would be able to use incentives for sinks to maintain</li> </ul>	

the town belt

**Project**

- Would local government be able to get project funding?

**General:**

- Want opportunities for businesses to be spelt out through economic development agencies around the country
- Wellington City Council is looking at ways to 'incentivise' behaviour that will have a positive impact on the environment

**Renewables:**

- What is the link between renewable energy devices work and amendments to the RMA. How can the RMA be improved to allow for renewable energy development

**Impacts and adaptation:**

- Councils would like to see some case studies of adaptation measures other councils have taken
- More information wanted on impacts and adaptation. The Wellington City council does have a risk management process

**Partnership:**

- There was a positive response to the idea of a local and central government partnership

**Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:**

7

<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Whangarei</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	20 May 2002
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Karen Bell
<b>Climate Change Project Staff Attending</b>	Martin Harvey, Deputy Director Policy Elisabeth Numan Parsons, Policy Analyst Scott Gulliver, Policy Analyst
<b>Issues raised and discussed during meeting</b>	
<b><u>Climate change as a phenomenon:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would like to know the reliability of the International Panel for Climate Change's predictions</li></ul>	
<b><u>General:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There were concerns about additional taxes that people will have to pay, the Northland region in particular is a lower socio-economic area and people will not be able to pay any additional costs with out causing hardship</li><li>• The climate change team are not selling the benefits of climate change policy enough</li><li>• There were concerns as to whether other parties support the policies, and therefore whether the policies will be viable in the long term</li></ul>	
<b><u>International:</u></b>	

- What is the relationship between New Zealand's policies for businesses that are competitiveness-at-risk and the World Trade Organisation? Will these policies be seen as subsidies
- There were concerns about national sovereignty

**Revenue recycling:**

- Where will the recycled revenue go? People at the meeting did not want the revenue to be distributed politically

**Report back from specific discussion**

**General:**

- Climate change is not a priority in Northland
- Want national standards
- Would like to know the costs to the region of the policies
- Concerns about the politicisation of the recycling of revenue
- The Climate Change Project is driven from urban centres, there is a need to ensure that policies have relevance to rural areas

**Funding of initiatives:**

- Local Government has an educative role and that would need to be funded costs money

**Any other general group comments on the package**

- Local government needs more information and education before it can contribute properly to the debate about the preferred policy package

**Evaluation of meeting: average rating from attendees:**

6